

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11

NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 DRC-01 /211 W

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R 141521Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1817

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12539

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XA, IT, EEC, US

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON AFRICA WITH ITALIANS: EC-AFRICAN RELATIONS;

YAOUNDE III

DEPT PASS AFRICAN POSTS AS APPROPRIATE

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FROM NEWSOM

1. DURING NOVEMBER 13 GENERAL DISCUSSION OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS, ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY PEDINI PROVIDED ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM WITH SOME DETAILS ON EC/AF RELATIONS AND ON YAOUNDE III NEGOTIATIONS IN BRUSSELS. PEDINI SAID THAT THERE WAS INTENSIFIED EC INTEREST THAT YAOUNDE III NEGOTIATIONS BE SUCCESSFUL SINCE THERE WAS APPREHENSION THAT SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA COULD BE REVIVED. PEDINI BASED THIS APPREHENSION ON AFRICAN SUPPORT OF ARAB POSITION DURING RECENT MID EAST CONFLICT; HE SAW POSSIBILITY THAT SOVIETS WOULD REASSERT THEMSELVES ON AFRICAN SCENE THROUGH INCREASED ARAB INFLUENCE.

2. PEDINI SAID YAOUNDE III NEGOTIATIONS HAVE HAD PROMISING BEGINNING, NOTING ENLARGEMENT OF EC AND INTEREST OF FORMER UK COLONIES IN TIES WITH EC. PEDINI SAID GUINEA HAD AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS AND ATTRIBUTED TOURE'S DECISION TO ITALIAN PERSUASION.

3. PEDINI SAID IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE TALKS WOULD GO ON FOR AT LEAST A YEAR AND THAT PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS WERE THOSE OF TRADE RELATIONS AND PREFERENCES. ON PREFERENCES, HE CLAIMED THAT A MAJORITY OF EC COUNTRIES WERE WILLING TO GRANT PREFERENCES TO AFRICAN PRODUCTS WITHOUT RPT OUT RECIPROCAL GRANTING OF REVERSE PREFERENCES TO EC BY AFRICANS. THEY WOULD ALSO PERMIT AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO MAKE SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS WITH NON-EC COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT FRANCE WAS ONLY COUNTRY WHICH DID NOT AGREE, BUT EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THE FRENCH WOULD EVENTUALLY COME ALONG. HE ALSO SAID IT WAS INTENTION OF EC THAT YAOUNDE III SHOULD CONFORM WITH GATT.

4. RE MAGNITUDE OF FED ASSISTANCE TO AFRICANS, PEDINI NOTED THAT ONE BILLION DOLLARS HAD BEEN GIVEN OVER PAST FIVE YEARS AND SAID HE EXPECTED THIS WOULD DOUBLE DURING NEXT FIVE YEARS. HE SAID THERE WAS DIFFERENCE OF VIEW AMONG EC COUNTRIES ON HOW TO DISTRIBUTE EC AID, WITH FRENCH FAVORING ALL AID GOING TO AFRICA, AND DUTCH FAVORING BROADER ASSISTANCE TO OTHER UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS WELL. ACCORDING PEDINI, ITALIANS AND GERMANS TOOK MIDDLE POSITION THAT AFRICA SHOULD GET PRIORITY TREATMENT, BUT OTHER UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES OUTSIDE OF

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AFRICA SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED FOR AID.

5. PEDINI MENTIONED THAT EC CONSIDERING PROBLEM OF STABILIZATION OF PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS A MATTER OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO AFRICANS. HE SAID THERE WAS AS YET NO RPT NO DEFINITE EC POSITION ON THIS ALTHOUGH HE HAD SPOKEN WITH BRANDT ON SUBJECT AND IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE AFRICANS SHOULD COME UP WITH SOME KIND OF FORMULA, THE EXPENSE OF WHICH

COULD BE BORNE BY THE FED. IN RESPONSE TO NEWSOM QUERY AS TO HOW POSSIBLE EC/AF PRICE STABILIZATION AGREEMENT WOULD FIT IN WITH ALREADY EXISTING WORLD COMMODITY AGREEMENTS, PEDINI RESPONDED THAT WHERE COMMODITY AGREEMENTS ALREADY EXISTED THEY WOULD BE OBSERVED; SUGGESTED EC/AF AGREEMENTS WOULD AFFECT ITEMS NOT RPT NOT ALREADY COVERED IN EXISTING AGREEMENTS.

6. PEDINI ASSERTED THAT EC ASSISTANCE COMMITMENT TO AFRICANS IS NOT RPT NOT DESIGNED TO CREATE "CLOSED MARKET," BUT IS VIEWED AS "POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION TO HELP AFRICANS." HE TTN DESCRIBED ATTITUDES OF VARIOUS AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO YAOUNDE III CONVENTION. HE SAID SOMALIA WAS VERY FAVORABLE AS WAS ZAIRE AND IVORY COAST. ACCORDING PEDINI, NIGERIANS HAD BEEN UNFAVORABLE PRIOR TO OAU MEETING, BUT SINCE THAT TIME HAS TAKEN LEAD IN ADVOCATING APPROVAL. HE SAID ATTITUDE OF GHANA WAS "COLD", AND THAT TANZANIA, UGANDA AND KENYA ARE AS YET UNDECIDED. RE LATTER THREE COUNTRIES, HE SAID THEY APPEARED TO BE BOTHERED BY INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS RATHER THAN BY ECONOMIC FINANCIAL ASPECTS, AND COMMENTED THIS WAS TYPICAL OF ANGLO-PHONES SINCE THEY HAD TRADITIONAL MISTRUST OF COMMON INSTITUTIONS. PEDINI SAID THAT ETHIOPIA, LIBERIA AND ESPECIALLY SUDAN WERE VERY FAVORABLE, AND NOTED THAT EC WAS HAVING ITS FIRST CONTACTS WITH ETHIOPIA. HE SAID GUINEA'S FAVORABLE ATTITUDE WAS A BIG AND WELCOME SURPRISE.

7. IN GENERAL COMMENT ON EC/AF RELATIONS, PEDINI SAID THESE SHOULD BE IN CONTEXT OF COOPERATION WITH US TO ENCOURAGE BALANCED DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THERE SHOULD BE AN AVOIDANCE OF "ECONOMIC WAR" AND SUGGESTED THAT US COULD WORK JOINTLY WITH FED ON INVESTMENTS PROJECTS, ETC. HE MENTIONED POSSIBLE US INVESTMENT IN GABON RAILWAY. NEWSOM TOLD PEDINI THAT US ALREADY COMMITTED THROUGH EX-IM BANK FOR 25 MILLION DOLLARS (PEDINI WAS NOT RPT NOT AWARE OF THIS) AND FOR ADDITIONAL

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FUNDS FOR FEEDER ROADS. NEWSOM CONTINUED THAT USG ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO AF/EC RELATIONS, AND SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THAT YAOUNDE NEGOTIATIONS GOING WELL AND SEEM TO BE ON TRACK MORE SATISFACTORY IN US VIEW THAN IN PAST. VOLPE

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